GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:254
ANSWERED ON:17.11.2016
Independent Forum for better Coordination
Tanwar Shri Kanwar Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an independent forum should be put in place for better coordination between the Centre and the States to address the problems relating to coal and other minerals, and if so, the time by which it would be constituted, and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) the efforts being made by the Government to repeal the Coal Bearing Areas(Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 and to provide for registration as the State Governments are suffering huge losses of stamps and registration fees as no contract has been executed by State Governments with coal companies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): There is already an existing forum of Inter State Council under the Ministry of Home Affairs available, inter alia for better coordination between the Centre and the States. Apart from that, regular meetings are held at the level of Minister and Secretary of the Ministry with the Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States to resolve various issues relating to coal and PSUs under this Ministry. Power Minister's Conferences are held periodically in which the issues relating to coal and its supplies are discussed and resolved. As such, there is no need for constitution of a separate Forum.

(b): There is no proposal to repeal the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. Land under the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 is acquired by the Central Government and transferred to Government companies for coal projects after complying with all the provisions of the said Act. The question of any loss of revenue on account of registration and stamp duty to the State Governments does not arise. State Governments earn revenue on coal removed or consumed by coal companies in the form of royalty.